

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Department of Trade and Commerce



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Merchandise Export Trade of Canada in August

The domestic merchandise export trade of Canada in August was valued at \$295,049,000 as compared with \$257,021,000 in the corresponding month of last year, an advance of 14.8 per cent. In continuation of the trend in evidence since the cessation of hostilities in Europe, a further decline was recorded in the value of direct war materials exported in August, shipments of goods in this category declining from \$117,604,000 to \$103,248,000, or by 12.2 per cent. The value of other goods exported advanced from \$139,417,000 to \$191,801,000, or by 37.6 per cent. The total value of merchandise exports during the first eight months of the current year was \$2,296,156,000 as compared with \$2,282,002,000 in the comparable period of 1944, an advance of 0.6 per cent.

Agricultural and vegetable products loomed large in the August export totals -- a feature of the trade in recent months. The total for August this year stood at \$88,016,000 as compared with \$42,644,000 a year ago, representing 29.8 per cent of total exports, whereas a year ago the percentage was 16.6. The movement of wheat abroad moved up sharply as compared with the same month of 1944, advancing from \$21,243,000 to \$60,821,000, while shipments of wheat flour rose from \$4,961,000 to \$8,173,000.

The export of animals and animal products was well maintained in August, the value being \$31,022,000 as compared with \$32,062,000 in the corresponding month of last year. The total for meats declined from \$13,284,000 in August last year to \$8,114,000, and cheese fell from \$5,949,000 to \$5,390,000. Fish and fishery products, on the other hand, recorded a substantial advance from \$5,515,000 to \$8,926,000, and processed eggs rose from \$2,085,000 to \$2,846,000.

Heavier export movements of newsprint paper, planks and boards, and pulpwood, accounted for most of the advance recorded in the wood, wood products and paper group, which rose from \$39,704,000 in August last year to \$44,415,000. A minor reduction was shown by the iron and products group from \$50,165,000 to \$49,659,000. In this latter group, the total for motor vehicles and parts rose from \$27,881,000 to \$33,207,000, while miscellaneous iron products fell from \$15,202,000 to \$6,610,000.

The United States was the chief destination for Canadian exports, the August total standing at \$112,645,000 as compared with \$85,979,000, and in the eight months ended August, \$833,540,000 as compared with \$822,533,000. The United Kingdom was Canada's second largest market in August with a total of \$66,627,000 as compared with \$90,202,000, and an eight-month aggregate of \$729,331,000 as compared with \$847,869,000. Canadian goods to the value of \$54,533,000 were shipped to British India in August as compared with \$16,813,000 a year ago, expanding the eight-month total from \$106,810,000 to \$257,244,000.

Shipments of Canadian merchandise direct to countries of Continental Europe -- a measure of Canada's contribution toward their rehabilitation -- were at a comparatively high level in August. Exports to Belgium were valued at \$3,154,000, Czechoslovakia \$1,446,000, France \$3,177,000, Greece \$3,488,000, Italy \$4,879,000, Netherlands \$6,114,000, Norway \$812,000, Poland \$893,000, and Yugoslavia \$865,000. Exports to Portugal rose from \$66,000 to \$320,000, Sweden from \$11,000 to \$585,000, while shipments to Russia were well maintained at \$6,091,000 as compared with \$6,961,000.

Amongst the countries of Latin America, Argentina took Canadian merchandise to the value of \$347,000 in August as compared with \$227,000 a year ago, Brazil \$883,000 as compared with \$807,000, Chile \$185,000 as compared with \$72,000, Colombia \$507,000 as compared with \$221,000, Ecuador \$26,000 as compared with \$8,000, Mexico \$470,000 as compared with \$419,000, Panama \$51,000 as compared with \$35,000, Uruguay \$131,000 as compared with \$113,000, and Venezuela \$358,000 as compared with \$148,000.

Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts

Cheques cashed in clearing centres recorded a further increase in August over the high level of the same month of last year, the total being \$4,727,000,000 as compared with \$4,532,000,000, an advance of 4.3 per cent. The aggregate for the first eight months of the current year was \$42,800,000,000 as compared with \$39,200,000,000 in the corresponding period of 1944, an increase of 6.7 per cent. Increases were shown in each of the five economic areas except the Prairie Provinces in August and in the cumulative period.



The August total for the three centres of the Maritime Provinces was \$104,500,000 as compared with \$97,800,000 in the same month of last year. Two of the clearing centres in Quebec recorded increases, the aggregate for the province standing at \$1,345,000,000, an advance of 4.4 per cent. The total for Montreal was \$1,217,000,000 as compared with \$1,147,000,000. Eight of the 14 clearing centres of Ontario recorded increases in this comparison, the provincial total rising 5.3 per cent to \$2,039,000,000. The total for Toronto was \$1,178,000,000 against \$1,053,000,000.

While increases were shown in five of the 10 clearing centres of the Prairie Provinces in August, the total declined nearly one per cent from \$911,000,000 to \$903,000,000. An increase from \$559,000,000 last year to \$570,000,000 in the month under review was shown in Winnipeg. Increases were recorded in New Westminster and Vancouver, while Victoria showed a recession, and the aggregate for the Province of British Columbia was \$334,000,000 as compared with \$297,000,000, an advance of 12.6 per cent.

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#### Stocks and Marketings of Wheat and Coarse Grains

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on September 13 totalled 202,944,587 bushels as compared with 295,067,002 bushels on the corresponding date of last year, a decline of 31.2 per cent. Visible stocks in Canadian positions amounted to 181,241,117 bushels as compared with 271,122,483 a year ago, and in United States positions 21,703,470 bushels as compared with 23,944,519.

Deliveries of wheat from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended September 13 were higher, amounting to 15,048,923 bushels as compared with 9,045,081 in the preceding week. From the commencement of the present crop year on August 1, marketings of wheat in western Canada aggregated 34,134,056 bushels as compared with 38,866,506 in the comparable period of 1944-45.

The following quantities of coarse grains were also delivered from farms in the Prairie Provinces during the week ended September 13, totals for the preceding week being in parentheses: oats, 3,350,032 (4,581,231) bushels; barley, 3,643,998 (3,481,240); rye, 223,685 (122,700); flaxseed, 140,426 (73,571).

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#### Fisheries Production of British Columbia in 1944

The marketed value of the products of the fisheries of British Columbia in 1944 amounted to \$34,900,990, an increase of \$2,422,348, or seven per cent as compared with 1943. The quantity of fish taken, including shell fish, was 4,583,226 cwt., a decrease of 647,310 cwt. from the 5,230,536 cwt. taken in 1943 and the value to fishermen at the point of landing was \$17,333,347, an increase of 10 per cent over the preceding year.

The quantity of salmon caught in 1944 amounted to 1,075,719 cwt. with a marketed value of \$15,623,223, recording a decrease of 11 per cent in quantity, but an advance of six per cent in the marketed value as compared with 1943. The catch of herring totalled 1,871,038 cwt. valued at \$6,758,626, an increase of two per cent in quantity but a decline of 13 per cent in value. The decrease in value was due mainly to the smaller quantity canned.

Grayfish advanced from fifth place in 1943 to third place in 1944, the main factor being the increased production of vitamin oil from the livers of this fish. The quantity caught in 1944 was 24,339 cwt. valued at \$3,751,460 as compared with 78,924 cwt. valued at \$2,106,470. The quantity of halibut taken was 131,671 cwt. valued at \$2,934,885 as compared with 126,869 cwt. valued at \$2,761,100.

The pilchard fishery was in fifth position in 1944, the catch amounting to 1,182,325 cwt. and the marketed value \$2,222,181 as compared with 1,774,774 cwt. valued at \$2,756,416 in 1943. Ling cod was next with a catch of 84,250 cwt. valued at \$1,282,617 as compared with 58,691 cwt. valued at \$874,633 in the preceding year.

There were 12,426 persons engaged in primary and 6,150 in secondary operations in 1944, a total of 18,576 for the industry. There were 523 more persons engaged in catching and landing the fish and 139 more persons in the processing end of the industry.

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### Car Loadings on Canadian Railways

Car loadings on Canadian railways for the week ended September 8 declined to 66,019 cars from 75,994 cars in the preceding week, due to the Labour day holiday. The total for the latest week was only slightly below that of the corresponding week last year. In the eastern division, loadings declined from 42,029 cars last year to 41,467 cars, and the total for the western division increased from 24,027 to 24,552 cars.

Total grain loadings increased from 10,074 cars in 1944 to 11,167 cars, but coal declined from 4,903 to 4,302 cars, and automobiles and parts from 1,377 to 707 cars. Pulp wood increased from 2,481 to 3,216 cars, and wood pulp and paper from 2,380 to 2,709 cars.

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### Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas

Sales of manufactured gas by distributing companies in Canada totalled 1,759,782 M cubic feet during July as compared with 1,673,791 in the corresponding month of last year. Sales of natural gas in July amounted to 1,402,216 M cubic feet as compared with 1,425,370 a year ago.

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### Maternal, Infant and Neo-Natal Mortality Rates

In 1942 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics made a study of the basic statistical features of maternal, infant and neo-natal mortality in Canada in conjunction with nativity, general mortality, marriage and stillbirth statistics for the 15-year period, 1926 to 1940. The material contained in this study was prepared by the Bureau in collaboration with the Department of Pensions and National Health, and issued for use in the medical schools, by physicians in private practice and by public health workers and educators in Canada. Due to the increasing demand for information on the subjects of maternal and child hygiene and to numerous requests for copies of the original study, the Bureau has reproduced this report in bilingual form with the addition to the text and tables of figures for the years 1941, 1942 and 1943.

The study shows that the maternal death rate for Canada, which remained stable for a number of years, began a general downward trend in 1931. During the last 13 years there has been a decided improvement, except for the years 1934 and 1936. Since 1936 the decrease in the maternal mortality rate has been striking and most encouraging, the rate falling from 5.6 maternal deaths per 1,000 live births in 1936 to 2.8 in 1943. The rate for 1943 was the lowest ever recorded. Comparing the rate for 1926 with that for 1943, it was ascertained that the decrease in maternal mortality has been 50.9 per cent in the 18-year period.

There has been a reduction in the infant mortality rate -- deaths under one year of age -- from 1926 to 1943 or 47.1 per cent, the rate falling from 102 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1926 to 54 in 1943, when the lowest rate in the history of the Dominion was recorded. With the exception of the years 1937 and 1941, the improvement has been constant. Neo-natal mortality -- death in the first month of life -- accounted for 55.1 per cent of infant deaths in 1943, as compared with 52.2 per cent in 1942, and 46.8 per cent in 1926. The reduction in the neo-natal mortality rate from 1926 to 1943 has been only 37.5 per cent as compared with a decrease of 47.1 per cent for all deaths during the first year of life.

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### Tuberculosis Sanatoria in 1943

The number of persons under treatment in the 39 institutions devoted to the care of tuberculous patients during the calendar year 1943 was 22,341, according to a survey conducted by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Resident patients on January 1, 1943, totalled 10,101, while 12,240 were admitted during the year. Direct discharges totalled 9,003, deaths numbered 2,321, leaving 9,988 resident patients on December 31, 1943.

Of the 12,240 admissions during the year, 8,722 were new cases, 2,568 were re-admissions, and 104 were reviews. Of the admissions, 10,215 were found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, including 242 diagnosed as with childhood type, 2,202 as minimal, 3,832 as moderately advanced, and 3,939 as far advanced. A total of 491 had pleurisy. The non-tuberculous totalled 468, while suspects, undiagnosed and all others numbered 578.



Thus, of the patients admitted, 11,194 were found to have tuberculosis, including 6,045 males or 54 per cent of the total, and 5,149 females or 46 per cent of the total. The heaviest toll of females was found in the age groups 15 to 29, while for males the age groups 20 to 34 had the highest percentage of admissions. It is interesting to note that 70.8 per cent of the total minimal, 66.0 per cent of moderately advanced and 53 per cent of far advanced cases were found in age groups 15 to 34.

A classification of the patients admitted with tuberculosis by previous occupation, shows that the largest number of admissions belonged to the group, homemakers, whose sole occupation is in the home. The number of admissions from this group totalled 2,264, and if the 629 who were living at home and not employed in household duties are added, the total becomes 2,893, or 25.8 per cent of total admissions.

Occupational activities under manufacturing contributed 1,180 or 10.6 per cent of total admissions. Those engaged in agriculture and kindred occupations numbered 910, or 8.1 per cent; personal service, 757 or 6.8 per cent; public administration and defence, 747 or 6.7 per cent; professional service, 505 or 4.5 per cent; transportation 392 or 3.5 per cent; trade, 349 or 3.1 per cent; building and construction, 266 or 2.4 per cent; clerical occupations, 489 or 4.3 per cent; unskilled workers, 675 or six per cent. Students supplies 943 or 8.4 per cent of admissions, and all others contributed 7.4 per cent.

Of the patients discharged in 1943, 73.3 per cent were released on medical advice, and of that number 6,488 or 97 per cent returned to homes where conditions were satisfactory. In 1942, 65.4 per cent were discharged on medical advice and 17.6 per cent against medical advice. Of the tuberculous deaths, 91.5 per cent were pulmonary, with an average days' stay per patient of 320.5 days.

The 39 sanatoria in 1943 had a bed accommodation of 9,254. Additional beds in public hospitals for tuberculous patients amounted to 2,065, giving a total of 11,319 beds for tuberculous patients in all institutions. During the five-year period, 1939-43 inclusive, tuberculosis beds showed an increase of 11.4 per cent. The increase in tuberculosis beds is encouraging but there is still much room for improvement in several of the provinces.

Total revenues of the 39 sanatoria in 1943 amounted to \$8,669,636, of which \$5,701,619 were received from the provincial governments, \$1,112,240 from municipalities and \$580,906 from the Dominion Government. These grants and payments constituted 85.4 per cent of total revenues. Total expenditures amounted to \$8,619,447.

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#### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Canadian Grain Statistics - Weekly (10 cents).
  2. Cheques Cashed Against Individual Accounts, August (10 cents).
  3. Summary of Canada's Domestic Exports, Excluding Gold, August (10 cents).
  4. Canada's Domestic Exports by Countries, Excluding Gold, August (10 cents).
  5. Advance Report on the Fisheries of British Columbia, 1944 (10 cents).
  6. Car Loadings on Canadian Railways - Weekly (10 cents).
  7. Monthly Sales of Manufactured and Natural Gas, July (10 cents).
  8. Tuberculosis Institutions, 1943 (25 cents).
  9. Maternal, Infant and Neo-Natal Mortality (25 cents).
  10. Financial Statistics of Hospitals for Acute Diseases, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, and Mental Institutions, 1943 (25 cents).
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